

REMARKS

Claims 6-12, 17-23 and 25 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 6, 17 and 25 are amended, and claims 1-5, 13-16 and 24 are canceled. Reconsideration and reexamination is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Response to Election/Restriction

The Office Action requires that a complete reply to the Final Rejection must include the cancellation of the nonelected claims 1-5, 13-16 and 24. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 13-16 and 24 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 6, 7, 9-12, 17, 18, 20-23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chang (U.S. Patent No. 5,271,802); and rejects claims 8 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Chang in view of Simon (U.S. Patent No. 3,787,964). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

In particular, neither Chang nor Simon, individually or in combination, disclose or even suggest forming a soft magnetic layer in a specific position by aligning with a position of an indicator while observing the indicator, as recited in independent claim 6, and similarly recited

in independent claims 17 and 25. Chang discloses in Fig. 1 and in col. 3, lines 16-23, that the slider supports a thin-film magnetic head/write head, and the head is formed by depositing layers of magnetic material, electrically conductive material, and electrically insulating material to form the well known pole pieces and magnetic gap necessary for the transducing function with a magnetic coating on a magnetic recording medium.

As such, Chang fails to disclose or even suggest the soft magnetic layer or the second patterned thin film is formed in a specific position by aligning with the position of the indicator while observing the indicator.

Simon fails to compensate for the above-noted deficiencies of Chang. Simon, in col. 5, lines 6-10 discloses that thin-film magnetic heads are batch fabricated and a plurality of thin-film transformers are simultaneously deposited on each wafer shaped substrate.

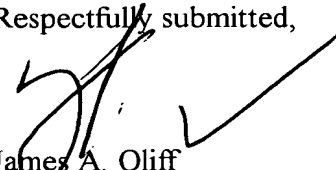
Accordingly, independent claims 6, 17 and 25 define patentable subject matter. Claims 7-12 and 18-23 depend from the respective independent claims, and therefore also define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 6-12, 17-23 and 25 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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JAO:YSC/dmw

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: September 26, 2003

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